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XUM

# CONCEITED LETTERS NEVVLY LAID OPEN

OR,

# A MOST EXCELLENT BVNDLE OF new Wit:

WHEREIN IS KNIT VP together all the perfections, or Art of Epistleing, by which the most ignorant *may with much modesty talke and* argue with the best learned.

A Worke varying from the Nature of former Presidents.

LONDON,
Printed by *Augustine Mathewes* for *Samuel Rand*, and are to be sold at his Shop neere *Holborne-Bridge*. 1632.

## *To the Iudicious Reader.*

THree things (Iudiciall Reader) make Bookes, and the publication of Bookes aboue good, excellent; to wit, Neceſsity, Vtility, and Implicity; and where any one of theſe are figured, no doubt but the Image is moſt comely; then how much more where all are contained, not *Helens* thirty perfections can challenge more admiration: and though it may ſauour of Oſtentation, to ſay, this Pamphlet hath all, yet it ſhall not be againſt truth to approue the Subiect, more then a Maſter; yea, euen the ſoueraigne of all: for if writings be the very ſoules, and eternall ſubſtances of time; what writings are ſo excellent, as thoſe which paſſe from man to man, Religion, Aduice, Familiaritie, Courtſhip, and all neceſſary commercements (by which euen the whole ſtate of the world is ſuſtained) being in them (as it were) bound vp to outliue all time all computation, then

what more neceſſary: for the profit, how ſhall Kings know and communicate their great actions, enlarge their bounds, redreſſe their peoples iniuries? how ſhall the noble know intelligence to ſerue his Country, the Merchant trade, or to his owne bring the wealth of many Kingdomes, or any, or all ſorts of people ſpeake at a farre diſtance, but by the helpe of Letters onely? then what to Mankind more rich and beneficiall, which *Tullie* better to expreſſe, made it the crowne of all his Labours. Laſtly, in theſe written Heralds are thoſe imployments, and braue implications, that whatſoeuer is excellent or good in man, is to bee ſeene in them, as in a mirror, & ſo to be imployed either exemplarily or iudicially, according to the vertues and vices in them contained: If then theſe vertues ſhadowed in theſe Preſidents ſhall giue thee that benefit which thine expectation hopes, or the Authors ayme made his leuell vnto, I doubt not but thou wilt loue it, reade it, and imitate it ſo farre, as to thy priuate benefit.

Farewell.

*Thine,*

I. M.

# Conceited Letters

*Newly layd open.*

A Letter to a Friend, to Borrow Money.

IF borrowing of money bee not a breach of Friendſhip, let mee intreate your patience to open your purſe, a preſent occaſion puts me to the aduenture of your kindnes, the matter is not much, yet will at this time pleaſure me as much as ſo much may doe: the ſum fiue pounds, the time three moneths, my credit the aſſurance, and heartie thankes the Intereſt. Thus without troubling the Broker, or charging of the Scriuener, hoping my Letter ſhall be of ſufficient power to preuaile with your loue, intreating your preſent anſwere in the affection of an honeſt heart, I commit you to the Almighty.

*Yours, or not his owne,*

D. M.

His Anſwere.

IF your Friendſhip were a follower of fortune, Loue would haue but a little life in this world, the contents of your Letter hath put me to a ſtrict account with my eſtate how I may helpe you, and not hurt myſelfe. I could make ſufficient excuſes, but that they taſte of ſmall comfort: and therefore knowing time to be precious, and to long delaie, let

let this ſuffice you, your requeſt I haue ſatiſfied, and the Money I haue ſent you: and not doubting your credit, will take your word for a Bond. Now for the vſe without abuſe, I wiſh but requitall, vpon the like occaſion. And ſo (glad that in this or any thing in my power,) I may make proofe of my loue, I reſt in the ſame

*Yours, or not mine owne,*
N. R.

A Letter to a Kinſman for Newes.

I Would be glad to heare how you doe, how the world goes with you, what newes are ſtirring, what whirligigs are in the braines of Dad-men, and what rekes Raskals rape among better men, what their opinions are that ſtudy the ſtarres, of the man in the Moone, & whether honeſt men among the multitude be not taxed for their wiſedome: how farre a mans tongue will goe beyond his teeth, and doe no hurt to his lips, and whether Dalyla be dead that betrayed Samſon to the Philiſtines: how Pride and Patience agree together in vngratious Spirits, how the Duell beſtirs him about his villany in the world, and whether loue be not laught at for a merry ieſt of wit, eſpecially where the weaker ſort want the ſtrength of vnderſtanding, many ſuch noſes may light in the way of thy obſeruatiõ, of which what thou haſt in memory, I pray thee put downe in a few lines, which ſhall not be loſt in my loue, and the ſooner, the better; for by thy long ſilence, I doubt of thy welfare. how euer it be, keepe it not from thy friend, who regards not fortune but vertue vpon which my affection grounded, can neuer be removed: Farewell.

*Thine, or not his owne,*
W. T.

His Anſwere.

GOod Couzin you write vnto me to know how I doe, in a word, neuer worſe, both weake in body, and ſicke in minde in briefe, as neare death as may be to liue: if you knew my croſſes you would pitty my diſcomforts, the variety whereof is ſo great, that I thinke there was neuer

Part

Cart so loaden with Wares, as my heart is with heauinesse and woe?

Oh this iron Age smels of nothing but Rust, whiles the baggs of mettall eates vp the hearts of men: where is kindnesse, but onely among Children for Apples and Nuts? Friendship (I thinke) is flowne away for feare of abuse, and loue is among the Saints which are onely in Heauen: and if the world be at this passe, in what case are the people, where men in shape are Monsters in Nature, & where Women (since the Creation,) are become strange Creatures? whiles howling with sinne, & weeping with shame, makes such a blacke Ghost amongst tormented soules, as if the Diuell had licence to make a Hell vpon Earth: Some are all for the Church, and nothing for God: others all for Christ and nothing for Charitie, and most men for themselues, and leaue their Neighbours to the wide world. Children are weary of their Parents, before they bee Parents of Children, and Parents so couetous, and vnkind, that Nature hath forgotten her course. To conclude the misery of time is such, as puts patience to the vtmost triall of her strength, and by the course of the Elements, the Almanack-makers knowe not what will become of this world: now for my selfe, I would I were with him that made it: but his will be done, who can mend it at his pleasure: vnto whose heauenly tuition, vntill I see you, I leaue you, *Yours, or not his owne*

R. B.

## A Letter of Challenge.

IF I thought that you durst answere me, I would Challenge you, yet where the sicke of a Feuer may burne after a shaking, I know not how shame may make a coward more desperate then valiant: yet once my wrongs I can put vp, whilst looking on the obiect of my Reuenge, I become an obiect to my selfe, to thinke what mettall I am to temper with. But in briefe, to lose no more time with you, to morrow is my day, the hower eight in the Morning, the place, the Paddocke within the Thicket: where the deter-

 mination

mination of buſineſſe I hope will be briefer then diſcourſe, and ſo I end, endleſſe. *Yours, as you haue made me,*

T.N.

His Anſwer.

IDle humors ſhewes idle Braines, where lacke of iudgement proues imperfection indiſcretion: To challenge a Coward is no valour, but if your Sword were as nimble as your Pen, I ſhould not know how to put by the point: but I thinke that your fury is but a flaſh, which betweene heate and cold hath made a little thunder, that will goe away in a Cloud: to temper with Pettals is fittеſt for Artiſts; but in the rules of honor ſcorne hath no place. But touching your Agony, take hæde of an Ague, leſt ſhame followes ſhift in putting off a quarrell with excuſe: in briefe, there ſhall nothing faile but your ſelfe, who, as you deſerue at my hands, ſhall find me from my heart,

*Yours, as you mine,*

R.D.

A Loue-letter to a worthy Gentlewoman.

FAire Miſtris, if I had no eyes, I ſhould not like you, and if no wit, I ſhould not loue you, for the brightneſſe of your Beauty is for no blind ſight to gaze vpon, nor the worthineſſe of your vertue for no weake braines to beate vpon. If you ſay I flatter you looke into your ſelfe, and doe me no wrong and if I doe you right chide not affection for a diſcovery, where truth is honourable; pardon my preſumption if it excæde your pleaſure, and commend his ſeruice, who will make an honour of your fauour: So in treating your patience for anſwer to my poore Letter, vntill I hear e from you, and alwayes I reſt,

*Yours denoted, to be commanded*

N.R

Her Anſwer.

SIr, If your wits goes with your eyes your braines may be on the outſide of your head; and then if you deceiue.

seine your selfe, I hope I shall not be blamed, Colours are but shadowes, and may be full of illusions, and the worthiness of Vertue may be a reach above the Worlds reason, yet the discovery of affection may bee more in words, then matter, especially where discretion sounds the depth of desert though the honor of truth to bee worthy regard. Where there is no fault, there needs no pardon: and therefore without trouble of Patience, finding no cause of displeasure, I thus conclude: Love hath a priviledge to bee at the command of kindnesse, in which I rest, to wish you much happinesse,

*Your well-willing Friend,*

E. S.

A Conceited Letter of Newes.

GOod Uncle I know you looke for Newes from this plot of our Earthly Paradise, which when you left, it was a place of great pleasure: but since your departure, some wicked Blasts have withered some of our principall Plants, but, God be thanked, we have at this time so good a Gardner that so plucks up the weedes by the roots, that (I hope) this Spring wee shall have a flourishing piece of ground.

Hobgoblin and the Fairies hath brought their believers to the Gallowes, where (had not mercy given grace) they had bin almost at Omnia in Desperation: But it is an ill wind that blowes no man to good: for Haltermen and Ballet-makers were not better set a worke this many a day. Our Sunne shewes his beames in great brightnesse, whilest the Man in the Moone is fallen quite through the Clouds: wild Birds put into Cages, become tame in little time: but our Jack Dawes will bee chattering while they have a tongue in their heads.

Our Turtle Doues are the prettiest soules in the world, but when a Cuckow counterfeits the Nightingale, there is an ill Close in the Musicke: Our Peacocke was so proud, that hee could not leave spreading his taple. But since moulting-time hee hath lost many of his Feathers. Our Post-horses have galled their Riders, and our Mares are kept but onely for their milke: in Summer, for Hen

and Women, the beſt (God bee thanked) are well, and for the worſt, God will take order for their amendment, & ſo with my moſt hearty commendation, I reſt,

*Your ever loving Nephew,*

I. M.

## The Vncles anſwere.

My kind Nephew, I thanke thee heartily for thy merrie Letter, in which I like well of thy iudgement in writing of Newes to meddle with no matters of ſtate: for hee that lookes too high may haue a ſudden downe fall, an old Country Prouerbe, may proue a good part of ſpæch.

I remember I haue heard my Grand-Father tell of one that was taught him in his Trauell: Let the Horſe neigh, know thou thy courſe, and go thy way: and ſo much for this. Now for your Earthly Paradice, I thought it when I came from it a goodly piece of ground, and twas pittie that any Blaſte ſhould periſh the leaſt Plant in it: But as it is I am very glad to heare ſo well of it, God bleſſe the owner of it, and the Gardener, that ſo well weedeth it.

Now for the Birds, hee that knoweth not a Cuckow from a Nightingale, is like vnto a Lark-catcher, that hauing caught an Owle, tooke her for a fine Hawke, till looking on her face, and fearing ſhe had bin a ſpritе, hee let her flie to the deuill. As for Peacocks, they will be proud, till they looke on their leggs, and Jackdawes will prate, it is their nature: and therefore bee not angry with a Milke-wench, if ſhe make not a curteſie like Miſtriſſe Conſtable: for there may be difference in their breeding, and ſo forth.

Now for our Country newes, I will tell you what is come to my hands, our Coults are ſo luſtie, that wee cannot keep a Filly in quiet for them, and our Geeſe are ſo fat that they wallow as they goe: our Sowes are ſo forward that we ſhall haue a world of fat Piggs, and our Ewes ſo ſuckie our Lambs that they leaue almoſt no fleſh on their backs: our Mill-horſe hath broken his halter, and laid his load at the Mill doore, and our Towne Bull is ſo fat that he ſhall be baited for the Butcher: our Towne is ſo full of

Marriages,

Marriages, that there is ſcarce Cakes enough for the Bride-ales.

Tom Piper and the blind Harper are hired for theſe Holidayes with my young Landlord, who hath ſworne by his Fathers ſoule, that he will hoord vp none of his ſiluer: other ſuch homely ſtuffe there is ſtore about vs, but becauſe you haue better Wares nearer hand, I care not much if I trouble you no longer with ſuch Trifles, I pray you let me heare from you of ſuch occurrents as comes in your way: In the meane time alwayes I reſt.

*Thy moſt louing Vncle,*

F.L.

A Conceited Loue-letter.

SWeete Creature, to tell you I loue you, were a phraſe of too plaine a faſhion: and yet when truth is indeede the beſt eloquence, affection needs no inuention to expreſſe the care of her content, which being in three Letters, makes a word ſoone to bee reade, which being Y: O: V: nothing doubting your ſpelling, I hope you will ſo kindly put together, that a Coniunction of Loue ſhall haue no ſeparation during life: And thus beſeeching you to learne this Leſſon by heart, without a croſſe in conceite, to hinder the courſe of loues comfort: till I heare from you in that nature, that may make me a happy Creature, I reſt.

*Yours wholly and only, if you will,*

M. D.

Her Anſwere.

KInd Sir, to tell you I loue you, were too croſſe an anſwere with a comfortable requeſt: and yet when diſſimulation is the worſt fruite of inuention, diſcretion may be pardoned in concealing of loue. Touching your letters, they are ſooner read then vnderſtood, while Imaginatiue hopes may be deceiued in their happineſſe, and yet to auoyd all touch of Ingratitude, in that nature of kindneſſe that may giue honor content, as a ſimple ſcholler in the art of loue, loath to haue that by heart, that may trouble more

then my head, when ſeparation of Contunctions may endanger the death of Comfort. wiſhing nothing, nothing amiſſe to them that meane all well, I reſt,

*Yours, as I may be mine owne.* E.B.

A Letter from a Lady to a Gentleman whom ſhee called her Seruant, for the preferring of a Gentlewoman vnto her.

SEruant I haue often ſpoken to you for that you muſt needs doe for me: I am going to the Court, and ſhall haue great vſe of a Gentlewoman to attend me. I know you haue many kinſmen and acquaintance, among whom you may find one to fit mee: I will take her your hand, and regard her for your ſake, and if her deſerts anſweres my deſires, ſhee ſhall loſe no ſcue in my fauour, and therefore leauing this truſty charge to the care of your diſcreete kindneſſe, as you will expect a greater curteſie at my hands I reſt.

*Your louing Miſtreſſe*
F. T.

His Anſwere.

GOod Madam, you ſpeake vnto mee, to helpe you to a Gentlewoman, which with my Letter I haue heere ſent you: a Woman and gentle who I hope will not be altogether vnworthy of your entertainement: for her perſon ſhe is not deformed, nor her face of the worſt feature ſhe is neither bleare eyed, nor tongue tyed, and for her qualities I hope ſhee can doe more then make curtſie and blush: her Parentage is not bare, nor her breeding idle, and for her diſpoſition I hope will be nothing diſpleaſing: to praiſe her in any perfection, I dare not, but in all will leaue her to the tryall of your patience: So wiſhing my dutifull ſeruice in this, or what elſe may lye in my power, ſo fortunate as to deſerue your fauor, and this Gentlewoman ſo gracious as to gaine the continuance of your good opinion, in prayer for your health, and hearts moſt wiſhed happineſſe, I take my leaue for this time, but reſt at all times, *Your Ladyſhips moſt humble Seruant*, R.G.

A Letter from a kind of *Diogines*, to a Courtier.

SIr, I heare by some of my acquaintance that you go on apace with the world: I pray God you goe as fast towards Heauen: but by the way let me tell you, what I thinke fittest for you, now and then to haue mind of, lest you forget the maine, while the highway deceiue you: for what is honor without vertue? King David tells you, it is but a blast, meaning a proud name: what is wealth without wisdome, but Conetous neede? and that is the roote of all euill: and what is life without Grace, the very highway to Hell?

Let therefore Vertue be your Honor, Wisdome your Wealth, and Grace your Life: so that God blesse you, the Diuell can neuer hurt you. Let not a little wealth beget a great deale of pride in you, lest a great deale of pride beget you but little wit. Know whence you are, who you are, & where you are: you are from the slime of the earth, but a creature on earth. Be merry with measure, but bee not mad in any case, for patience is the guide of experience where haste makes more waste then good worke. To conclude be loyall to Soueraignty, faithfull in Friendship, constant in loue, and honest in all. Farewell.

*Thine as thou knowest*

B.B.

A Letter of zealous loue, written from a Gentleman to his Brother.

BRother, since I last heard from you, I am sorry to heare that I doe of you, that you are wound so farre into the world, as if that you neuer meant to get out of it: you know I haue trauelled far, seen much and borne some vnderstanding, by all the obseruation of Time, in the courses of Nature: I find Salomons truth in the tryall of the World, that there is little of it, but is little worth in it, (when all being but Vanitie) there is little vertue to be found in it: Beleeue me Brother, wee are neuer in one Nature, but differ in another: in the Flesh, but not in the Spirit:

For

For whilest I contemplate the substance of the soules comfort, thou art pusselled in the World amerg the puddles of the Earth: yea, I feare the nature of thy affect to be as farre from the rule of Religion, as the most senceleſſe Creature is from the vſe of Reaſon.

Oh brother, I know that thou haſt wronged many, and thy ſelfe moſt; I would thou wert a Zacheus to right all: but better betimes then too late, looke home to the maine chance, haue a care of thy ſoule, and thy body will bee the better: beleeue it, there is no ruſt eateth ſo faſt into any mettall as the venome of Auarice into the heart of a wicked man: Prodigalitie is the way to penurie, but Couetouſneſſe is the roote of all euill, betwixt both there is a meane, that to hit on is a kind of happineſſe, and if thou haſt no eares but of Mydas, that can heare of nothing but gold, take a heart of Simeon, to ioy in nothing but Chriſt Jeſus. Turne a new leafe, ſerue God for whom thou wert created, and let not the earth triumph ouer thee, for whom it was made to tread vpon, lift vp thine eyes towards heauen, where one ioy of the Elect is worth all the Kingdomes of the world: leaue the world ere it leaues thee, and loue him euer, that will neuer leaue thee: let thy life be a Pilgrimage, and the earth but a paſſage, and the heauen onely the home of thy ſoules eternall happineſſe, once a day read theſe few lines for my ſake; which if they doe that good to thee, which I heartily pray for in thee, till when and euer my hearts loue.

*Thy louing Brother,*
N. P.

His Answere.

My good Brother, I thanke you for your carefull and kind Letter, yet let me tell you, that zeale without diſcretion proues not the beſt part of Religion: Reports may be idle, and then beliefe may be erronious, when miſtakings by miſconſtruings may breed abuſe of good vſes: I know that Riches are Witches to them that make their heauen of this world, but hee that hath a leaden wit, will neuer worſhip a golden Calfe: But ſince I know Abra-

ham

ham & Lazarus were alike in election, giue me leaue whilst I am in this world, by Christ rather then Auarice, rather to be a Husbandman, then to be a labourer for hire: if I haue wronged any, it is vnwillingly, whom if I know, I will satisfie most willingly, & for the wound of conscience, I will hope to be so far from hipocrisie, that I shal be free from that feare, & therefore though trauel hath taught you much experience in the world, & hauing sufficient maintenance to passe through the world, you make the lesse account of the world, yet when careful thrift bordeth no couetous thralldome, be not iealous of my loue, with all the pleasures of the world, to make comparison with the least of heauens comfort. I know the highest mountaine is but earth, and the lowest valley is no other, & therefore when I carry my fat Sole on my head, let me walke like a foole or monster. In briefe, I know the world and how to vse it, and keep: account with my care, how I may most contentedly leaue it, but for my loue to him that made it let me liue no longer in it, then I loue and honour him aboue it & so intreating you to blow off il breaths that may abuse my disposition & to be perswaded so farre of my soules health, that my ioy is euer & onely in Christ Iesus, to his preseruation, leaning the happy issue of your hopes in the nature of the best loue, till I see you, and alwaies I rest.

*Your most loning Brother,*

T.W.

## A Letter of Loue to an Honourable Lady.

Honourable Madam: if Loue were not aboue reason, it would not be so high in regard: who dwelling only in the spirits of the best vnderstandings, feeds the heart onely with the fruites of an infallible resolution: What it is in it owne nature hath ben diuersly described but I thinke neuer knowne but vnto them that inwardly know it. Some hold it a Riddle, that none can interpret, but he that made it: and others a Miracle, that amazeth all that beleeue it: but if it be as I haue read of it, a Childe and Beauty beget it: I hope Nature will be her selfe, and not

unkind unto her owne breede: How to proue truth, the Honour in your Eyes, that haue wrought my heart to your seruice, shall make knowen to your fauor in the happinesse of your Employment. So crauing pardon for my presumption, in my deuoted duty, to the Honour of your command, I humbly take my leaue. *Your Lordships, in all humblenes.*

R. B.

Her Answere.

VVorthy Knight, if Loue bee aboue Reason, it must bee either Diuine or Diuelish, and so regarded accordingly: what it is I thinke is best knowne by the elect of it, howsoeuer idle braynes haue beaten about the description of it: Riddles are but Ieasts of wit, and Miracles are ceased for being seene in our Age; but if it bee a Child (though of a strange Parentage,) surely Nature will not suffer the Mother to bee cruell to her owne breed; but if it fall out to bee an vngratious Father, what then will be thought of the Children? yet lest in misconstruing a conceit, I may mistake a content, since in the secret of Nature may bee a sense of strange vnderstanding, I will suspend my iudgement, till I haue made proofe of my opinion: when Eyes and Hearts meet together in discourse, I hope the businesse will be soone ended, that is referred to indifferent iudgement: So till occasion bee offered of the performance of Imployment, hoping that Vertue and Honour will soone agree vpon sure grounds, till I see you, I rest: *Your louing Friend.*

M. W.

A Letter from a Knight to a Nobleman, for the entertayning of a Secretary.

NOble LORD, I heare that your Secretary hath lately taken his leaue of this world, in whose place (if you be not prouided) let my loue preuaile with your honour for the entertainement of this bearer, a Gentleman and a kinsman of mine, in whose commendations I dare thus

thus farre vſe my credite, his heart ſhall be as faire as his hand vpon any occaſion of your Employment, and for his wit, it is both in Caput and Copie-hold, for hee hath read much, and obſerued more then a little, his diſtent hath bin from the loynes of an Honourable Line; and for his diſpoſition euery way, I hope you ſhall find it no way diſpleaſing: not to trouble you with long circumſtance, ſeruing happineſſe to your acceptance, with my ſeruice to your command, in all humble loue I take my leaue for this time, but reſt during life, *Your Honours deuoted, to bee commanded.*

T. W.

The Lords Anſwere.

MY kind Knight, I haue receiued your Letter, fulfilled your requeſt, and entertained your Kinſman, of whom I am already ſo well perſwaded, beſides the aſſurance of your knowledge, that I thinke a little matter ſhall not make ſquare in our loues: I find what you write of him, and ſhall haue much employment for him, I thanke you for him, and if he continue his cariage, which I doubt not, he will be of better fortune then my fauour, and yet somewhat the more for your ſake, I will take ſuch a care of him, that ere many moneths paſſe, you ſhall find my loue in him, ſo till I ſee you at my Houſe, where you ſhall make your owne welcome, I reſt *Your moſt aſſured Friend,*

E. S.

A Letter from a Gentleman of the Country vnto a Iuſtice of the Peace, a ſpeciall friend in the City, to intreate his worthy friend ſeuerely to puniſh all Whores that liue within the limits of his Iuriſdiction, by whom his Sonne had (being lately in Towne) bin diſpoyled and abuſed.

VVOrthy and well beloued Friend, I am at this inſtant (relying vpon your euer manifeſted loue) conſtrained not onely to reueale that vnto you, which

knowne (but to your ſelfe) may much reuoke me of raſhneſs, but alſo herein to implore your loue in rectifying in as much as in you lye, the capitall and diſgracefull abuſes, which thereby I & mine are ſuſtained. It is not vnknowne vnto you, that I have a ſonne, to whome till now I ever accounted my ſelfe happy and fortunate; but (oh miſery to all Fathers) I euer crediting his adulatory proteſtations, gaue the raines of his gouernment ouer now to his owne hands, which hee perceiuing (vtterly neglecting all good courſes) hath carelеſſly caſt himſelfe into irrecurable extremities, wherein (vnleſſe ſpeedy courſe by your meanes bee taken for the contrary) he is like to perſeuere. He (my wicked ſonne) of late often diſcontinuing from my houſe, hauing ſubborningly raiſed meanes in his hands, and vnknowne to mee, conſumed much of my eſtate hath bin often ſeene conuerſant with wicked liuing Curtizans, who liue within the limits of your command, who cunningly haue depraued him of what hee craftily couſned mee, inſomuch that thereby my ſtate is much weakned, yet cannot I truely particularize any with whom hee is conuerſant; yet for certaine he hath bin, and (I doubt me) yet is too often frequent amongſt them. To the end therefore that his haunt may bee left, and both they and hee reduced to reformitie, let mee intreate you to rote out all ſuch lewd liuing huſwifes out of your Libertie, which you neuer ſhall doe, vnleſſe you ſeuerely puniſh them according to the Statute in that caſe prouided, which will either abſolutely extirpe them, or cauſe reformitie in them, which if you (as by your authority are bound) doe, I will on the other ſide bee more prouident and carefull of my riotous ſonnes behauiour, ſo that by our cares all that is amiſſe, may ſpeedily bee amended, which fauour if I may craue at your hands, I ſhall (as alwayes I haue done) euer reſt.

*Your loving friend to command.*
W.P.

His

His Anſwere.

KInd Friend, I haue peruſed your Letter, the contents whereof to giue you content for your diſcõtent, haue bin ſo auaileable and forcible with me, that not onely herein, but in whatſoeuer I may aſſure you, I will be ready to doe you any kind of friendſhip. I am ſorry to heare that your ſonne is ſo carelеſſly carried in his courſe of life, which yet no doubt, by your fatherly care may be amended, wherein if you (as I doubt not but you will) bee fatherly prouident, you ſhall ſee how truely without partialitie I will (as it becomes me) execute my authority in chaſtiſing and expelling that vnreclaimed crew out of my Liberties, aſſuring you further, that if I hereafter heare that your ſon doth ſoiourne in ſuch places within my authority, I my ſelf will reprooue him, and either by intreaty or otherwiſe reclaime him if it be poſſible, whereof wiſhing you to be moſt aſſured, I reſt. *Your euer faithfull friend,*

E. W.

A Letter of a ſimple man to a Scholler, that was determined to play the Wagge with him.

VVOrſhipfull Sir, I vnderſtand by my honeſt friend and Schoolefellow in our Pariſh Church, that your Worſhip hath a great knowledge in caſting of Natiuities, and telling mens fortunes, to tell you truely what yeares I am, my Grandam ſayes I was at lawfull age to enter vpon my Fathers Farme at Lent laſt, and then your Worſhip may geſſe much about the time; the day and the houre I doe not well remember: But to the purpoſe, I heare ſay, that in your ſtudie amongſt the ſtarres, you haue gone by all the Planets, and ten to one if your Worſhip will goe ouer them, but you ſhall find me in one of them and if you aske of them that dwell in theſe houſes, ſome of them may tell you that of me, that all the world is not acquainted with. I pray you Sir let me intreat you to

take a little paines for me, and chiefely, what good hap or ill is like to betide me, as well among men as women, and when I come for my note, I will better consider your paines, in the meane time I haue sent you a piece of gold that saw not light this many a day: so till I heare from you, which I pray you let it bee as soone as you can, I commit your Worship to God. From my house at Columsbery this second day of July. 1622. *Your Worships to command,*

Ienken Hoguiskine.

His Answere.

My good Friend, I receiued your Letter, and your kinde Token, and though I loue not to shew my skill in these secrets, yet for your Schoole-fellowes sake I haue taken a little paines for you: I will tell you what I haue found among them all: if you were borne vpon the Sunday, Sol is a hot Planet, and you will be much subiect to Sunburning, especially, if you goe to Plough bare-headed: if vpon the Munday, the Moone is full of water, and if you fill your braines too full of drinke, you may grow Lunaticke, and so be in danger of Bedlem: if vpon Tuesday, Mars is a bloody fellow, and if you goe to Fisticuffes, you will hardly bee without a bloody nose: if vpon Wensday, you must weare a Nightcap, and bee euer at your booke, especially (if you can write and reade) and be in any office in your Parish: if vpon the Thursday, you will bee as proud as a Beggar, especially (if you weare your best clothes) on a working day: if vpon a Friday, beware of Wenches, lest they make thee a poore man, especially (about Cuckow time:) and if vpon Saturday, oh, you will bee so froward that (if you marry) your wife will neuer indure the house with you, especially, (if shee be of the braede of a Scholler:) and therefore not yet hauing heard any newes in any of the Houses of you, vntill I heare from you againe, I can say no more to you, and so I rest, *Your assured Friend,*

T.W

A Letter to a Friend on the other ſide of the Sea.

DIſtance of place muſt make no difference of mindes, Loue and Life amongſt hearts make an end together, I haue long longed to heare from you, and if I had knowne whither, I had ere this written vnto you: but now hauing met with him that meaneth ſhortly to ſee you, I haue thought good to let you know, that I yet liue to loue you, and forget not to pray for you, that all happineſſe may befall you: Glad I would bee to ſee you, and in the meane time to heare from you, how the world goeth there about you, whether all birds bee of one feather, and how they flie together; what blazing Starres haue beene lately ſeene, and what your Aſtronomours thinke will follow of their appearance, whether your wine bee watered before it come cuet, and how youth and age agree vpon the coniunction Copulatiue: how the great Fiſh and the little agree together in your Seas, and how your Rabbets eſcape the Kite abroad, and the Pole Cat in their Borrowes; how the Foxes and Wolues prey vpon your Geeſe and Lambs, and what ſport your Swallowes make with the Flies in the aire. I wiſh you not to write of any wonders, becauſe they are incredulous, nor of matters of State, for they may bee perhaps ill taken: but onely how honeſt men thriue, and knaues haue their rewards; how wiſe men are honoured, and Foles laught at, and how the weaker ſort hold their ſtrength with the ſtronger, when Wenches eyes pull out mens hearts out of their Bellies, their wits out of their braines, and their money out of their purſes, and ſuch matters of no moment then muſt needes, if you will take a little paines to ſet downe in a little Paper, I ſhall be glad to looke vpon them, and in my loue to requite them, for our World to heare it, were a World to thinke of it: But the Meſſengers haſte not giuing mee time to write of it vntill the next Poſte, I will ſay this of it, GOD bleſſe the beſt, and mend, or end the worſt, grant all honeſt hearts good liues in it, and a ioyfull departure when they

they are to leaue it, to which prayer, hoping you will ſay Amen, till we meete, and alwayes I reſt.

*I hine, or not his owne.*

W. T.

His Anſwere.

My long acquaintance, and worthy beloued friends, I haue lately receiued your letters, wherein I find your deſire to heare of the paſſages in the world on this ſide the ſalt water. Now to ſatisfie in as much as I can, let me tell you, that I find ſome difference in the natures of Nations; but touching their diuiſions, I thinke they are much alike through the whole world; for on the one ſide, I find the powerfull, imperious; the ambitious, enuious; the couetous neuer ſatisfied, the licentious idle and the fooliſh vnprofitable: on the other ſide, Maieſtie gracious, Honour vertuous, Wealth charitable, Thrift wealthy, Wit painefull, and Religion loyall, and Labour commodious. Now looking into the danger of Greatneſſe, the charge of Honour, the care of wealth, the miſery of want, the folly of wantonneſſe, and the beggerie of Idleneſſe: I haue choſen the Meane for my part of muſicke, where I ſhall neither ſtraine my voyce, nor ſtretch my ſtrings, but with little charge keepe my Inſtrument in tune: The paſſages are heere as in other places, when Ianuary and May meete in coniunction there are ſtrange kinds of countenances that ſhew not the beſt content.

And when windes are higheſt in Summer, the fruit ſhal fall ere they be ripe many idle exerciſes are more coſtly then comfortable, much talke and little truth, and gay outſides haue poore inſides oaths, and lyes as common as Highwayes, and painted Images make fooles Gods, honeſt men thought more ſilly then the wiſe among the Wizards of the world and the dwell among the Brokers daily hunted with beggers murmuring of war among the vnquiet ſpirits, and Peace guarded for feare of a cloſe ſtratagem. In ſumme, ſuch variety of buſineſſe, that euery mans braine is full of humours: and for Women, they are of ſuch force,

that

that they put men to great patience: for my selfe, I see the world at that passe, that I thinke him happy that is well out of it: In summe, God blesse the best, while the worst mend, and send vs his grace, and health with a happy meeting: so till I heare from you, which I wish often with my hearts loue that shall neuer end but with life, and my hearty commendations I commit you to the Almighty

*Yours, as mine owne,*

R. G.

A Letter from a Friend in the City, to a Scholler in the Vniuersity.

HOnest Ned, since I left the blessed place wherein thou dwellest, I am come into a world that doth amaze me with imaginations, how Nature could so iuggle with the world, as to make men become shadowes, and women pictures: but neere the end of dayes I see the Deuill labours hard about his haruest, else could madnesse neuer so ouerrule, as to turne wisedome out of doores. The disloyaltie of Subiects to most gracious Princes, vnthankefulnesse of seruants to most bountifull masters, vnthankfull hearts to best deseruing Spirits, disobedient Children to most carefull Parents, yea, most vngratious Creatures to the most gracious Creator, makes me feare a new dealing vpon the earth, to clense the World from iniquity, the Diuell is feared in his colours, but followed in his conditions and heauen more spoken of, then lookt after charitable mouthes haue other meaning in their hearts and oathes are so common, that they are little in account, the cup of sinne is top full to the brimme, and daily caroused to the health of the diabolicall Diuell: Reason so bewitched to the World, that A. T. to much in the world makes him a wofull Scholler that keepes that lesson in his heart: Iack a Lent scarse a Gentleman will ride a Cock-horse like a rascal, and Ione Friule in a French hood will bee a Lady before her Mistres. Prison is become a practise of policie to deceiue the witt with a plot of villanie: The breach of some man is deadly, especially vpon a capitall offence: when Iustice impartiall

weedes the land of the vnnaturall: The Pruner of the three Trees hath gotten much by vnwholsome Fruite, who when he hath pared the outside, puts the rest in an earthen pie. Believe me Ned, I shall not be at rest till I bee with thee, where I may walke to the Well that yeelds the Spirit a sweet Water. Shortly I hope to see thee, in the meane time let me heare from thee, that vpon the least of thy wish I may the sooner be with thee. Farewell.

*Thine, if his owne.*

F. W.

## His Answere.

KInd Frank, in perusing thy Letter, I find no little touch of passion, and that thy braine is not a little distempered with the cares of this world, which though they touch not thy person yet being a Christian, thou canst not but hate a Iew: for mine owne part, I haue read of many idle passages in times past, but I am most heartily sorry to heare of the sinfull occurrents of this age: I haue read in the Discourse of Sin, that Enuie is a pestilent humor in a pestiferous spirit, and that Pride is the fore-horse of Follies, that drawes the Diuels Car into Hell: I haue read likewise, that Queene Helens lust was the spoyle of Troy, and that her name will neuer be blotted out of the blacke booke of Infamy: I haue read of many things, of which I haue taken some notice, as of the Cuckow killing the Sparrow that hatcheth her, and the Turkie Cock beating his hen when he hath trod her, but a Dog to bee too sawcie with a Lyon, fie vpon it, there is almost no beast can abide it. I read likewise, that vpon a time, that sin was growne to such a height, that the Deuill laid about him like a great Lord, but God bee thanked, there was an Angell that had authority ouer him, seeing his reekes, quickly weakned his force, fetched him into his precinct, & kept him so fast lockt in his chaine, that hee could not passe beyond his limits, but what is all this to thee, no more but a requitall of thy kindnesse, as thou writest what thou hast seen, so I, what I haue read, when set the Hare against the Goose giblets, and there

would

would be a ſtrange diſh of diſdaine: well, when thou art weary there, come hither, and as we may, we will bee merry together: Farewell. *Thine, or not his ſelfe,*

T. L.

## A Letter to a Scholler that tooke vpon him the Interpretation of Dreames.

SIr, I heare by a Kinſman of mine, among other your deepe iudgements in many other learned points of Art, of your moſt excellent iudgement in the interpretation of Dreames, and being perſwaded much of your kindneſſe, by ſuch as haue conuerſed much in your company, I am bold to intreat your opinion vpon ſome apparitions that lately troubled mee in my ſleepe; & though I will not be frighted with furies, nor will truſt vnto flatteries, yet if I may haue ſome notice of the iſſue of theſe night-troubles, I ſhall take it for a kindneſſe, that I would not bury in oblition. Firſt, mee thought I ſaw Phaeton in the skie, ſitting in Sol's glorious Car, & many fiery diuers about him, but on a ſudden giuing his Horſes the bridle, for want of holding, they runne with ſuch a ſpeed, that the Carre was ouerthrowne, Phaeton fell downe, and all his diuers with him: with the ſudden noiſe whereof I awoke, when I fell aſleepe againe, I ſaw, mee thought certaine great Starres mounting aboue the Sun, but comming neare his heat, they were ſuddenly diſſolued, hung a while in the ayre, and at laſt fell into the bottome of the earth, with the fall whereof I awoke: now toward morning, taking a little nappe, mee thought I ſaw a kind of a Furie, or the Deuill let out of Hell with charms or poiſons to doe much hurt in the world, but a gracious power came from heauen, for the good of the world, and with the breath of his mouth made her ſo vaniſh away that I neuer heard more what became of her. Theſe were the three dreames that troubled me in my ſleepe, the interpretation whereof, leauing to the deſcription of your kind patience, I reſt *Your loving Friend,*

R. C.

His Answere.

SIr, though my profession be not to interpret night trou-bles: yet at the request of your friend I am content to tell you mine opinion of your strange apparitions. Touch-ing your first dreame, it should seeme you are somewhat poeticall, and having the day before read of the fiction, were troubled in the night with a Fable: for your mounting Starrs, I guesse you were the euening before at the Star or the Moone, or some such Elementall signe studying some Tauerne Astronomy, that your braine being in the alti-tude of Canary, taking the candles for starres, seeing one of them by mischance fall with his Candle-stick downe to the ground, being a little troubled with it to Bed-ward, brought out this strange diction in your sleepe. For the third, if you come to Furies, thee Diuels, or such kind of Spirits, I haue nothing to say to them, nor will trouble my thoughts with them. And therefore leaning such as loue Hell to deale with such Hagges, beseeching God to blesse mee and thee, and all honest hearts from all such horrible creatures, I rest *Your louing Friend,*

T.L.

A Letter from an Apprentise to his Father, to send him some mony to succour himselfe withall, he being hard-ly vsed by a cruell Master and Mistris.

KInd and louing Father, my humble duety premised, with hope of your good health, with my Mother and the rest of our good friends, &c. The extremity which I haue long endured at the hands of my vnconscionable Ma-ster and Mistris, constraineth me (seeing no likelyhood of re-dresse) to reueale, manifest that vnto you, which long I haue concealed; which as it is vncouth vnto me, in regard of your Paternall care of me, whilest I liued with you: so I doubt not (your Fatherly loue continued vnto mee) but it will be displeasing vnto you. I am placed by your good

good friend A. W. in a ſeruice, where till I was bound Apprentice, I had good vſage, but ſince I was bound, I haue ſeldome had good day; nay, after that you ſent them the money, which maſter A. W. did promiſe with me, they began to extenuate hard vſage vnto me, to debarre from mee not onely liberty, but victuals, finding many times faults without occaſion, wrongfull beating and buffeting mee without offence, which I neither can, nor doe I thinke you will wiſh me to endure. I am almoſt pind with want, which how to redreſſe, I know not, vnleſſe you vouchſafe to ſupply my preſent wants: to leaue my Trade I am loath, to call my Maſter in queſtion I am more loath; where to haue redreſſe I know not in this my extremity, vnleſſe you take ſome courſe for me and ſend mee wherewith to ſuccour my ſelfe betweene times, vntill it ſhall pleaſe God to turne their hard hearts. Thus hauing briefly acquainted you with my preſent eſtate, hoping of your Fatherly loue vnto me, humbly craning yours and my mothers daily bleſſing, leauing you to the tuition of the Almighty, expecting ſpeedily to heare from you, I reſt

*Your obedient Sonne,*

T. W

His Anſwere.

SOnne, I haue receiued your Letter, wherein I am giuen to vnderſtand, that my Friend A. W. hath not ſo friendly diſcharged that friendly truſt, which I repoſed in him, as I expected. Notwithſtanding, I will in what I may, ſeeke redreſſe for thy wrongs: in the meane time deliuer this twenty ſhillings to your maſter as a token from me, happily his hard vſage of you is to draw ſomething out of mee: which if I ſee I cannot by my gifts (which I will ſend to him) haue mended, I will come vp my ſelfe and take ſome courſe to remoue you from him. In the meane time I ſend you ten ſhillings to ſupply your neceſſary wants, which I wiſh you ſparingly (as you haue occaſion) to beſtow, and not idlely or waſtefully; and let mee heare from you alwayes by this Carrier. Serue God, endeauour to

pleaſe your Maſter and Miſtris, and whileſt I liue, they, they ſhall know then haſt a Father: ſo in haſte I reſt,

*Your louing Father,*

W. T.

## A Letter of a Patient to his Phyſitian.

MAſter Doctor, your Patient commends him to your patience, to beare a little kind chiding for your too long abſence: my diſeaſe holds his owne, and my paine nothing diminiſhed, and if you come not the ſooner, your Phyſicks will be paſt working: for my ſtomacke is weake, and my heart groweth faint, and yet I faide, though my diſgeſtion be not the beſt, loath I am to languiſh, if I may haue hope of comfort, but your abſence makes me doubt of my recouery I pray you therefore haſte you vnto me, and let me be aſſured of your comming, leſt you come too late, you know my diſeaſe, and are acquainted with my body, for my cure I leaue it to God and your Conſcience, and ſo entreating your preſent anſwere of your ſpeedy preſence, I commit you to the Almighty. *Your ſicke louing Patient,*

T. N.

### His Anſwere.

MY good Patient, I feare your impatience hath by ſome paſſion encreaſed your paine; I know the force of your diſeaſe cannot but be weakned, if you bee not more afraid then hurt, you willnot die of this Maladie: if my buſineſſe were not great, I would ſee you; or if your need were great I would not be from you: but knowing euery Crampe is not a Conbultion, nor euery ſtich at the heart, I will onely wiſh you to put off melancholy, to take heede of cold, to haue mind rather of heauen then earth: Eate good meate, but not too much: Drinke good Wine, but meaſurably: bee in charitie with all the world, but not too farre with any, eſpecially with the Feminine gender: Vſe motion for naturall Phyſick, and let a merry heart be your beſt Phyſitian, for conceit is hurtfull, if it bee not contentiue,

and

and it is past the reach of my reason to cure a corrupted mind: shortly, and God willing, I will see you, in the meane time imagine I am with you, for indeed I will not be long from you: and this let me tell you, that to put you out of feare, I haue no feare of you, but that you will be past Physicke ere my hope faile of your Cure and that will not be in hatte: and so hoping that you are not so weake in spirit, but that you can endure a little paine with patience, in hope of assured health, till I see you, and alwayes I rest

*Your Phisitian, and loving Friend,*

W. R.

A Letter from a young Gentleman to an old.

My good Captaine hauing of late no little disposition to Martiall discipline, and in the Field of blood to aduenture life for honor, I am to entreate your aduice as one long experienced in that course for what you shall think fit for my furniture for such seruice as may deserue regard & how I may so carry my selfe in all companies that I may not be banished the best; and if it please you shortly to goe ouer to your company, that you will let mee serue vnder your Colours: and so beseeching your present answere that I may the better determine of my desires, leauing to your kind discretion the care of my instruction, protesting in my best endeauours to shew my loue in your seruice: till I heare from you I rest *Your affectionate Friend,*

B. R.

His Answere.

Sir, your desire I mistike not if your body will answere your mind, your Booke warres yeld no blowes and therefore seeme sweete in reading, but come to the triall of the businesse, and you will finde it full of bitternesse, but if resolution haue taken roote with you, and not easily to be removed, I will tell you what I thinke shall best beseeme

behoue you to carry with you: a good heart, a stayed head, and a strong stomack, a purse to defray necessary charge, and a care in laying out of expences, neither offer nor take wrong, at least not much: borrow little, pay all, obserue the wise, loue the honest, bee not idle nor ill exercised, beware of forfeits, play, and wanton pleasures: for thy furniture, thy Armour and Pike, thy peece and thy sword, shall be sufficient to make thee a Souldier: serue God, and feare not the Diuell, let thy enemy see thy face, and not thy back, and be not proud of any honorable action: but giue God the glory of all: when I goe, which will bee shortly, I will giue thee notice, in the meane time see mee, and I will loue thee: Farewell. *Thy assured Friend,*

R. B.

To the right worshipfull *L. M.* Esquire, Iustice of the Peace within the County of G.

HUmbly shewing, that whereas your Worships poore Suppliant, being by reason of his great charge of many small Children, as also by his long Captiuitie, impouerished, was constrained to pawne vnto H. M. of the Parish of S. B London, certaine goods to the value of twenty pounds, for ten pounds, which said goods, hee not onely most vniustly detaineth (albeit he is allowed for euery fiue shillings, three pence by the moneth) but looketh for better satisfaction to secure him for his tenne pounds, not withstanding the foresaid value of the goods:

May it therefore please your good Worship, the premises duly perpended, to cause the said *H. M* to make restitution of the goods aforesaid, your suppliant paying him his owne money, and that satisfaction which riseth thereof, as in your graue wisedome shall seeme most expedient: and this hee most humbly craueth for Gods cause, and as in duty most bound, hee shall euer pray, &c.

A Letter

## A Letter from a poore distressed Prisoner vnto a cruell mercilesse Creditor.

MAster N.B. having long remained in insufferable Captiuity, onely detained at your suite being ready to perish with want, being continually afflicted with most contagious diseases, and anoy'd with infectious damps, I am constrained, having no other shelter but your fauour, to appeale vnto your charitable loue for my enlargement, being of my selfe vtterly as yet vnable to giue you present satisfaction: humbly beseeching you, in commiseration of my wofull misery, to be pleased to accept of an honest mans security for your satisfaction, which if I may but craue at your hands, I shall euer be bound to pray for your prosperity: to keepe me where I am, I shall neither be able to pay you, nor to relieue my wife and children, which I trust you will duly perpend: Thus humbly desiring your comfortable answere, I leaue you and yours to the tuition of the Almighty.

*Your distressed Debtor,*
*now a miserable Captiue,*

R. W.

### His Answere.

I Maruell how you can thus impudently trouble mee from time to time, with your frimolous papers, if I could once see my money, you should know more of my minde, I know you haue goods and some money left you, you were best to sell it, that I may haue satisfaction: to be briefe with you, vnlesse you pay me, keepe where you are, you and yours shal starue, and rot, and hang, ere I lose by you: What should I doe with another mans word for my money; word me no words, I haue had words enough already, I must and will haue deedes ere you part; giue me my money, God spæd you well, otherwise you know my minde.

T. W.

A dogged

A dogged Letter to a diſpleaſing companion.

AFter my hearty commendations, hoping that you are in good health, as I was at the writing hereof, when my head ake, wiſhing you no better comfort then a Scold to your wife, deſiring to heare from you, that I may neuer heare more of you, and ſorry with my ſelfe to be troubled with the thought of you, aſſuring you, that there is no man cares leſſe for you, for the vileneſſe I know in you, and the villany I heare of you, wiſhing all honeſt men to beware of you, no wiſe man to truſt you, hoping if that God doe not the ſooner mend you, the Gallowes will end you: to deale plainely with you, as a Rakehell I found you, ſo a Rakehell I leaue you. *Yours as you ſee*

*by your good ſeruice,*

T. R.

Her Anſwere.

O Man in deſperation, how are thy wits out of faſhion: it ſeemes by thy ſight, thy Spleene is full of corruptions; for thy wiſhes they cannot hurt mee, nor thy words trouble me, ſorry I am that thy wits are a woll-gathering or gone God knowes whither: what ill ſoeuer you thinke of me, I know better then you thinke of me, if your head ake, you ſhould better bind vp your braines, then let them flie ſo neere Bedlam, to raile without diſcretion, vpon a cauſeleſſe imagination: but while the wiſe note your folly, and the honeſt pitie your furie, I ſhall be the leſſe ſorry for you, becauſe I will haue nothing to doe with you: if your breath be as ill as your pen, no Chriſtian will abide you, and ſo fearing nothing but as an idle humor followeth you, a worſe plague then a ſcolding wife, which is as neere hell as may be, will torment you: as a Woodcock I know you and as a Dawcock I hold you, and ſo till I ſee better of you to your mad fits I leaue you, and ſo reſt as you ſee by the courſe of your owne cards, *Yours, as you mine,*

T. W.

A Letter

## A Letter of Reconciliation.

HOneſt Daniel, I thought to try the vertue of thy loue in thy patience, but I ſee we are all weake, when rage gets vp to his height. Reaſon is a poore man, if thou didſt thinke I was mad, thou mighteſt haue beene ſorry, and not angry; and if well in my wits, thou mighteſt haue thought it an humour of ieſt to try a friend in earneſt: onely louers haue not beene of a little continuance, and ſhall a conceit of vnkindneſſe breake the knot of our friendſhip, farre be it from both and either of vs, thou knoweſt thine owne deſert, and my diſpoſition, and mighteſt therefore ſuſpect my diſtemper of Braine through the violence of the ſame diſeaſe, then fall into choler vpon a motion of male-content: But ſince I began a quarrell, I will end the combate, and all cauſes ſet aſide, loue thee in ſpight of all ſpight; and therefore let vs be as we were, and euer will be, one minde in two bodies, and ſo with hearts ſhaking hands, and ſhaking of all ill humours, that may make the leaſt breach into our loues, till I ſee thee, and allwayes I reſt

*If not thine, not mine owne.*

W.R.

## His Anſwere.

MY moſt worthy Beloued, and neuer to be remoued kinde Wilkin, beleeue me it: I can be angry, and eke with kindneſſe to meete with humours in their kinde, onely to be out of your debt for a few good words. I toke a little paine to blot a little paper, which if you will put to the fire, mine ſhall ſoone conſume to aſhes, and to auoyde all memoriall of mad humours: I confeſſe Nature is ſubiect to imperfection, yea, and reaſon is ſometimes weake in diſcretion, but loue is euer himſelfe, where hee liues in the ſpirites of vnderſtanding. Thinke therefore of mee as of your ſelfe, who rather embrace kindneſſe, then beleeue madneſſe; and ſo leauing all ill humour of Ieſt, haue a

heart that will euer loue you in earneſt. So putting off all thought of quarrell, where the Combat is but a conceit of kindneſſe in the irremoueable reſolution of infringeable affection: I reſt as I haue bẽn, and can now be none other.

*Thine, what I am, not mine owne,*

T. R.

A Letter from a Sonne in Priſon to his Mother, his Eſtate being waſted.

DEare and Louing Mother, as euer your Paternall loue hath heretofore bẽne manifeſted vnto me, ſo now I beſeech you in this my great extremity to extende it towards me; my meanes are conſumed, my ſelfe captiuated, ready to periſh with want, and which way to turne mee in this height of miſery I know not, but vnto you, whoſe euer carefull reſpect of me, hath bẽne ſuch, that nought could, or (as yet I hope, can) remoue your loue from me. Wherefore in pitie of my preſent miſery, I deſire you good Mother to make ſome meanes for my enlargement: my debts are not much, notwithſtanding of my ſelfe I am vtterly vnable to giue ſatiſfaction, inſomuch that vnleſſe you be pleaſed to commiſerate my diſtreſſe, I am vtterly denoyd of all hope of comfort or enlargement. If therefore you will vouchſafe to ſet mee at liberty, my future duty and diligence ſhall obſequiouſly in ſuch ſort be manifeſted, that whatſo euer hath heretofore bin amiſſe, ſhall be amended, to my good, and your comfort, whereof wiſhing you to be moſt aſſured, and expecting your comfortable anſwere: I reſt,

*Your diſtreſſed Sonne,*

T. M.

Her Anſwere.

SOnne, I am ſorry your folly hath brought you to ſuch extremity: had you bẽne hedfull in your courſes, you mought haue preuented theſe diſaſters. Notwithſtanding ſince miſery ought rather to be pitied then blamed (eſpecially by a Mother) I will in this your extremity, in hope of your

your reformity, manifeſt a Mothers loue vnto you: your debts ſhall be payd, you ſet at liberty, and ſome ſpeedy courſe be taken for your future maintenance, if you will confirme what you haue written. I will be with you to morrow, till when comfort your ſelfe, and feare God, and pray for your poore Mother.

*Your loving Mother,*
F. R.

## A Letter from an old man to his Sonne before his death.

My Sonne, thou art now comming into the World, that I am going out of, and yet before my departure out of it, let mee tell thee what I hold needfull for thee to haue care of in it. I know thou wilt not breake thy bread all in one houſe, feede alwayes of one diſh, nor lie alwayes in one place, and therefore let me reade thee a ſhort Lecture for thy carriage in all courſes, the Court is a place of charge more then eaſe, the Citie Gawdes of more price then worth, and the Countrey ſports of more pleaſure then profit, yet is there no ſeruice to the King, no dwelling to the Citie, nor pleaſure to the Countrey, but all the waight of the worth of them is in the hand of wiſedome, who in the knowledge of the vſe of them makes the beſt eſteeme of them: but leſt long Leſſons may ouercharge thy Memory, take this one Rule for thy learning in all, and thou ſhalt finde it good in more then a few, whereſoeuer thou goeſt, note the beſt, chooſe the beſt, and keepe the beſt, bee not buried in earth before thou commeſt to thy Graue, nor build Caſtles in the Ayre, leſt they fall downe vpon thy head: Let not thy Eye abuſe thy Heart, nor thy Tongue diſcredit thy Will, and let Reaſon gouerne Will in all the paſſages of Nature, be neither needy nor vngratefull, vncourteous nor vnkinde, and examine thy Conſcience in the care of thy content, ground thy loue vpon Vertue, thy Hope vpon Reaſon, and thy Happineſſe vpon Grace, liue as a Stranger in the World, and make what

haſt thou canſt into heauen, be loyall to thy Prince, naturall to thy Country faithfull to thy friend, kinde to thy neighbour, and honeſt to the whole world, ſo ſhall God bleſſe thee, the beſt loue thee, and the worſt not hurt thee.

And thus ſo weake in body, that the Spirit fainteth, inforced to expreſſe the full of a Fathers loue vnto thee, with my Prayers to the Lord of Heauen for thy preſeruation in this World, and eternall happineſſe in the world to come, with my loues bleſſing, and therewith what I am able to leaue thee, to the merciful guard of Heauens glory I commit thee.

*Thy moſt louing Father,*

T.M.

Her Anſwere.

My moſt louing Father, this Legacy of your loue for the direction of my life, how much I prize in my hearts thankfulneſſe, the eye of your Iudgement ſhall behold in my obſeruation, and giue me leaue to tell you, that in this little time that I haue ſpent idlely in this World, I haue had ſome taſt of the meate that you haue giuen me where I finde that the beſt meate may be ſpoyled in the dreſſing, whileſt a cunning Cooke will make a rich ſeruice of ſmall coſt, and though giddy heads are in loue with gawdy, yet ſince the better ſort of opinions eſteeme a ſmall Diamond before a great Saphire, I care not if I rather aduenture farre for the honour of vertue, then leſſen my eſtate, by breach of armes, and ſince there are ſo many counterfeits, that the beſt Jewel'er may be miſtaken, I will meddle with no ſuch Wares as may call Repentance to an after reckoning, while my heart lookеth toward Heauen, I hope the Earth ſhall not blinde mine eye, nor the vaine delights of Nature preuaile againſt the vertue of Reaſon: but all is in the power of powers, by whoſe Grace being guided, I ſhall be euer ſo preſerued, that howſoeuer my heart be wounded, yet they ſhall neuer be confounded; in hope whereof, and vnto the which, beſeeching the Almighty either in health

to

to prolong your dayes, or in the election of his loue to call you to a better life, more eſteeming theſe precepts of your loue, then all the portion you can leaue, ſauing your bleſſing, I humble take my leaue:

*Your moſt loning*
*and obedient Sonne,*

R. D.

A Letter to a Kinſman that came from the Vniuerſity to the Court, and was giuen much to his ſtudy.

My good Coſin, I heare ſince you came from the Vniuerſity to the Court, you are inclin'd much to melancholy, your minde onely delighted in reading and ſtudy, and among many variety of matters of import, that you take much delight in ſearching out of Petigrees, and Heraldry, the knowledge whereof I hold both honourable and profitable: but the vſe thereof requires a heedefull care, for in the diſcourſing of matters vnfit, you may be brought within the compaſſe of folly, but as a friend to giue you a Caueat in all your courſe of that ſtudy, take my aduice for the bettering of your vnderſtanding in the beſt of your Coates: Be not too buſie with the Crowne, and of all beaſts beware of the Lyon; if he ſleepe, wake him not, leſt you trouble his patience, and in his walke croſſe not his way, leaſt his frowne growes wrathfull: For other Beaſts thinke of them as your reaſon will giue you leaue: where you finde honours, note if you can the deſert of them, and for bought Coates, conſider of them in their kindes, times alter and natures in them, and therefore in the ſetting downe of Antiquities, there may be much deceite through the corruption of the writers or directors for ſtrange Coates, and to ſee an Eagle haue a Fly in her mouth, and a Mouſe bite a Cat by the tayle, or a Goſe keepe a Fox in his denne: Wonder at it but make no words of it, and if you ſee a black Swan in a blew Field, and an Eele in her belly, running out at her taile, or a Peacock pulled out of his feathers, and making

his

his Pearch vpon a croſſe bar, ſmile at the conceit, but kéepe the cenſure of it to your ſelfe. To conclude, Reade much, but beléeue little: Thinke much, but ſpeake little, and know much, but meddle little, but in medling with other mens coates, looke that you looſe not more then your owne Jerkin: And ſo wiſhing your Studies as profitable as pleaſing to you, till I ſée you, I commit you to the Almighty.

*Your loving Conſen,*

R. D.

His Anſwere.

SIr, I haue read your Letter, and conſidered of the contents: To the anſwere whereof, giue mee leaue to tell you, that I am not determined to hurt mine eye-ſight with too déepe looking into a Willſtone, nor to beléeue Antiquity further then Reaſon may carry my vnderſtanding, and whatſoeuer I finde of Coates, I will ſo carry my dus and true alleageance to the Crowne, that I will auoyd all touch of diſloyalty: For the Lyon, I will neither trouble him, waking nor ſléeping; and for his walke, with no beaſt to be ſo fooliſh, as to croſſe his pleaſure in his paſſage: for your merry conceites of ſtrange Coates, I will onely ſmile at my coniecture of them; and ſo long as I know a Falcon from a Buzzard, an Eagle from an Owle, and a Nightingale from a Cuckow. Let mee alone to iudge of the Natures of Birdes, and how they are borne, and when I looke into the Nature of Honour, whether by purchaſe, fauour, or deſart, I note the time with the perſons, and ſo goe on with my opinions to the iudgement: I kéepe to my ſelfe, now for what elſe may grow out of this Study, either profit, pleaſure, loſſe of time, or repentance. I thanke you for your Item, to kéepe my conceit from diſcourſe, for all things are to be taken in their right kinde, and when learning growes hurtfull, it proues wit not well tempered: And therefore hoping ſo to make vſe of my braines, that my Head ſhall doe my Body no hurt: With many thankes

thankes for your kinde inſtructions, I commend you to the Almighty.

*Your very louing Kinſman,*

T. M.

A Letter from a Father impouerished by his Sonne, to his Sonne in proſperity.

IF euer awfull duty were in Children of any force oh then let it be in thee manifeſted, whoſe duty ought to exceede the bounds of duty, I haue for thy ſake ruined my ſelfe, ſubuerted my eſtate, fruſtrated the hopes of all my other Children, onely for thee to bring thee out of Captiuity, to raiſe thy fortunes by mine owne and their vndoings; and being thus beteed, to whom ſhould I appeale for comfort but to thee? For whoſe ſake I am abſolutely comfortleſſe? If to my brother I goe if to any of my kindred, to any of my old acquaintance to ſeeke reliefe, what ſay they? why doth not your Sonne ſuccour you: Oh miſerable caſe that Fathers ſhould bee compell'd to craue for that which they mought haue commanded, yet I am not the firſt, nor ſhall I be the laſt: Loue and nature will blind, nor doe I repent, of that I haue done for thee, if in lue thereof thou wilt manifeſt but a dutifull loue to me in this my miſerable diſtreſſe: reſolue me therefore ſpeedily, what thou intendeſt concerning mee: let me not languiſh in diſpaire, but one way or other put a period to my longing deſires, for till I heare from thee twixt hope and diſpaire, I reſt

*Thy ſorrowfull Father*

R. D.

His dutifull Anſwere.

GOod Father, for your ſorrow I grieue, yet more I grieue that you acquainted mee not ſooner with your wants: ſhould I not diſcharge that duty whereinto you,

both in the Lawe of God and nature I am obliged, I should proue most inhumane vnnaturall and disobedient: which basenesse, as euer I did, I doe detest: to manifest therefore my duty to you wards, as you haue louingly bene a good Father to mee, and for my sake ouerthrowne your hopes, and deiected your selfe: what is mine, I solely during your life resigne to your disposing, humbly desiring you that as you were carefull out of your meanes to free me from Captiuity, and to raise my fortunes: so, out of that which God hath lent me, be as carefull to raise my brother and preferre my sisters, and what you doe, I will confirme whilest God blesse you with life, that gaue me life: all during my life, shall be at your disposing. Wherefore, good Father intreat not for that which you may & shall command: come therfore I pray you your selfe ouer to mee, the sooner the better welcome, and if my brother or either of my sisters be in want, this shall bee their home whilest it is mine. God Father, therefore hasten to me, for till I see you, I shall rest

*Your sorrowfull Sonne,*

W. T.

A Letter of vnkindnesse vpon a conceite of all carriage in a Friend.

There are two ill qualities in a Woman, and two worse in a man: In the first, vnkindnesse and inconstancie: In the second, vnfaithfulnesse and vnthankfulnesse: and will you beare both the imperfections, that none may exceede you in euill, what my deserts haue bene at your hands you know, and what your requitall hath bene to me, I would I knew not: But what shall I thinke? is euery man onely for himselfe, and let the world goe as it list, hath vertue abandoned the earth, and is wisedome so rapt vp in the misty cloudes of concupiscence, that shee can scarce shew any glimmering of the light of true grace: God forbid, for Vertue hath her working in all the Children of her

her loue: of which I would you were one, that I might ioy as much in your conuerſion, as I feare your confuſion: Be not angry though I ſeeme bitter. for I am touched to the quicke, yet write more out of loue, then out of hate, for I will inſpend my opinion vntill your anſwere giue me ſatisfaction, that I ſhall ſhortly with your preſence cleare my thought of your indignities, till when and alwayes I reſt

*Yours as you know,*

*and ſhall know,*

T. M.

His Anſwere.

WHat women are I know, but what men ſhould be I know, and what I am you ſhall finde, alwayes one and the ſame, in irremoueable affection to an aſſured Friend. Vertue I know hath her working in the hearts of the honeſt, and I hope you will not take mee of a contrary condition: but if a miſreport breedes a miſbeliefe, an vngracious conceit may worke a grieuous vnkindneſſe, if your deſerts, and my requitall were weighed together in an euen balance, I hope there would not be much inequality: but let humours bleede their laſt, and better thoughts will follow: I am well content to make a bitter ſweete of an angry loue: ſhortly I will ſee you, and then to ſatiſfie you, that the old Prouerb ſhall come new in proofe, The falling out of Louers is the renewing of Loue: in which I will reſt without all doubts,

*Yours as I haue been,*

*and euer will be,*

R. D.

## Conceited Letters.

### A Fantaſtick Loue-Letter.

MIſtris, if you were not a Witch, your eyes could not haue ſo wrought in my heart, as to make me thinke of nothing but your loue: and if your words were not charmes, they could not ſo command me from my ſelfe, as to ſeuer me wholly to your ſeruice: but if it be ſo that you are borne a Creature onely to crucifie my ſpirit, I muſt onely pray for patience to mitigate my paſſion, finding your nature as farre from pitie, as my hope is from happineſſe, that if there be any ſparke of grace in you, let it kindle a coale in your kindneſſe to warme the life of my loue, that I may not dye in the cold feare of diſdaine: but reuiuing in the vertue of your fauour, I may honour you aboue the whole World: ſo leauing my life to the anſwere of your owne loue, I reſt

*Yours what you will*

T. N.

### Her Anſwere.

SErnant, if you were not a foole, you would not runne ſo from your wits, as to write you care not how vpon an imagination you know not what: mine eyes be mine owne, and if your heart be not yours, ſhall I winke becauſe you are wilfull? No ſuch matter, and my words haue made a metamorphoſis of your wit, I am ſorrie my breath ſhould blow away your vnderſtanding: yet leaſt you ſhould thinke I am paſt grace in the pittie of perplexities, let me intreat you not to feare your owne ſhadow: walke temperately in the Sunne, and the heat will doe you no hurt. So wiſhing you better then you wiſh your ſelfe, not to trouble your head with idle humours; I reſt, as I haue reaſon,

*Your loving Miſtreſſe,*
M. T.

A Letter

## A Letter of griefe to a faire Creature, that was ſeparated from her ſecond ſelfe, for playing falſe with a third Perſon.

SWéete ſoule that once was, now the moſt wretcheſt Creature that is, how haue you made a metamorphoſis of your ſelfe? when you were vertuous, you were faire, now you are vitious, you are foule: when you were wiſe, you were honoured: now you are foolish, you are ſcorned: when you were gracious, you were beloued: now you be wicked, you are hated. Oh ſtrange alteration, from vertue to vice, from wiſedome to folly, from grace to ſinne, as to make the Creature ſo offenſiue to the Creator: what ſhall I ſay vnto you? but onely that I am ſorrie for you, but cannot helpe you, and only pray for you, that your ſinne may be forgiuen, that your ſhame may bee forgotten: and ſo beſeeching the Highest, whom you haue offended moſt in the mercy of Iuſtice, to ſhew the glory of Pitie, in the ſorrow of humanity and Chriſtian charity, with a broken heart, to thinke of your wounded Soule, wiſhing your true repentance to be a preſident for the conuerſion of all ſuch vnhappy Creatures: I reſt

*Your Friend, and no farther, but in prayer for your ſoules health,*

T. R.

### Her Anſwere.

MY once kinde Friend, now worthily farre off from the title of ſuch comfort, with ſighes let mee write that which I ſeale with the teares of my heart: I now finde the wound of Conſcience ſo deepe cut into my heart, as comes to neere the danger of my Soule, and were not Faith the ſtrong hold of Hope, Patience would be too full of teare: I confeſſe ſhame to be a gentle puniſhment of ſinne, and re-

pentance a true ple aber for mercy, for none ſæs the angry face of ſinne, but the repentant ſinner. For the World I hate it, and my ſelfe moſt in it, for my ſinne I loath it, and abhorre my ſelfe for it, and for my life, I am weary of it, that I care not how ſoone I were rid of it: but all things to Gods pleaſure, to whom I beſeech you in Chriſtian charity to pray for me, that the enemie of Chriſt may not preuaile againſt me, that whatſoeuer befall me, I may not fall for euer. So with a bleeding heart in the bitterneſſe of griefe, as full of ſorrow as a ſinfull ſoule can hold: I reſt

*Your worthy forſaken Friend,*

F.R.

## A Letter to a Friend for his opinion in diuers poins of conſiderations.

My honeſt Ned, I pray thee write mee word by this bearer how thou doeſt, thy opinion of the World of life and death, honeſty and wit, and what comes into thy head, when thou haſt leaſure to bethie, I long to heare from thee, to reade thy conceits, which if they be of the old faſhion, are better then the new forme: be what will be, to me it ſhall be welcome, and thy ſelfe better whenſoeuer I may ſee thee: for dull wits and addle heads ſo beate about the Market in this Towne, that I had rather goe a mile wide, then keepe way with ſuch wilde Geeſe: and ſo loath to trouble thee with trifling newes, to no good purpoſe, in the affection of a faithfull heart: I reſt

*Thine what mine.*

T.N.

### His Anſwere.

Kinde Henry, to anſwere thy requeſt, in a few words let me tell thee, for the World, I finde it a walke that ſoone

ſome wearieth a good ſpirit, this life is but a puffe, and Death but an abridgement of Time. Now for ſome notes I haue taken of the World, and diuers things in it: let me tell thee, that if all the wealth in the World were in one Cheſt, it would not buy one houre of Life; if all the honeſty of the world were in one heart, it would not buy one bit of Bread; and if all the wit in the world were in one wicked pate, it would not buy one iot of grace: and therefore it is mete with Death at a meaner price, and to carry Money with Honeſty, the better to goe to Market, and to ioyne Grace with wit, to finde the high-way to Heauen. This is all for this time I haue had leaſure to thinke vpon, as more comes in my Head, I will make you acquainted with it; in the meane time, marke what I haue written, and it will doe thee no hurt in reading: Farewell.

*Thine, or not mine owne,*

T. R.

*FINIS.*